

REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 15, 17, and 18 have been amended, and claims 6 and 13 have been canceled. In view of these actions and the following remarks, further consideration of this application is requested.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 6, 8 and 9 has been noted with appreciation. Accordingly, the subject matter of now-canceled claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 1 and while the subject matter of intervening claim 2 has not be so incorporated, it is submitted that the absence thereof should not affect the patentability of amended claim 1 since the feature of claim 6 relating to the *second* bearing means, by itself, is novel and unobvious over the prior art and is not dependent on the features of claim 2 which relate to the *first* bearing means. Likewise, independent claim 18 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, so that it too should now be patentable over the prior art. Thus, withdrawal of the prior art rejections is submitted to be in order and is hereby requested.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, since the "racks" have been deleted from claim 15, the objection relating thereto should be withdrawn. As for the "coupling means" of claim 16, it is submitted that that "Bowden" cable 27 connected to slide 14, cable guide 29 and drive motor 28 provides a coupling of each of the right and left side bearings for synchronous movement as discussed in the specification at paragraph [0032] and shown in Figure 9. Therefore, since this feature is shown in the original drawings, no revisions to the drawings are needed and this objection should be withdrawn.

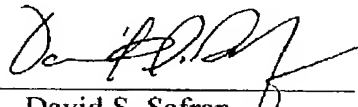
Since Claim 13 has been canceled, the Examiner's rejection thereof under § 112 has been rendered moot and should now be withdrawn.

Additionally, claims 11, 14, and 17 have been amended to correct the minor deficiencies noted by the Examiner so that the indefiniteness rejection thereof under § 112 should be withdrawn and such action is hereby requested.

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition to be approved for issuance as a patent. While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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